

Message Text

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ACTION OES-04

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8854

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE WELLINGTON 3474

EO 11652: N

TAGS: TGEN: NZ, VU

SUBJECT: SCOTT-AMUNDSEN BASE DEDICATION CEREMONY

REFS: A) NSF CITE NR 206, 120230Z AUG 74

B) STATE 240815

1. REF A SUGGESTED I AND A SENIOR NEW ZEALAND REPRESENTATIVE MIGHT WISH TO VISIT THE ANTARCTICA DURING THE JANUARY 1-15 TIME FRAME TO TAKE PART IN THE DEDICATION OF THE SCOTT-AMUNDSEN STATION. THE NZ-INVITEE WAS TO BE COORDINATED WITH BOB THOMSON. AFTER COORDINATING WITH THOMSON, I EXTENDED AN ORAL INVITATION TO PM ROWLING OR HIS REPRESENTATIVE TO ACCOMPANY ME TO THE DEDICATION.

THE PRIME MINISTER HAS NOT YET DECIDED WHETHER HE WILL ACCOMPANY ME OR SEND A REPRESENTATIVE, BUT I EXPECT A FIRM REPLY FROM HIM IN THE NEAR FUTURE. INFORMATION CONTAINED IN REFTEL B TO THE EFFECT THAT NSF HAS CONCLUDED, WITH DEPARTMENT'S CONCURRENCE, TO LIMIT PARTICIPATION ONLY TO AMERICANS COULD BE EXTREMELY EMBARRING SINCE INVITATION TO PRIME MINISTER OR HIS REPRESENTATIVE TO ATTEND HAS ALREADY BEEN EXTENDED.

2. AS THE DEPARTMENT AND NSF ARE AWARE, THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE US AND NEW ZEALAND WITH REGARD TO ANTARCTIC ACTIVITIES DIFFERS MARKEDLY FROM OUR RELATIONS WITH ANY OTHER TREATY SIGNATORY. WE ARE HIGHLY DEPENDENT ON THE USE OF CHRISTCHURCH AS A STAGING POINT FOR OUR RESEARCH

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SUPPORT ACTIVITIES. WITHOUT THE FACILITIES PROVIDED BY

THE GNZ OUR ANTARCTIC RESEARCH WOULD EITHER BE DRASTICALLY CURTAILED OR CONSIDERABLY MORE EXPENSIVE. EQUALLY, WITHOUT GNZ SUPPORT THERE WOULD BE, IN ALL PROBABILITY NEITHER A SCOTT-AMUNDSEN STATION TO DEDICATE NOR REPRESENTATIVES TO TRANSIT NEW ZEALAND TO ATTEND THE CEREMONY.

3. IN VIEW OF THE ABOVE I STRONGLY REQUEST THE NSF-STATE POSITION BE RECONSIDERED AND THAT I BE AUTHORIZED TO EXTEND A FORMAL INVITATION TO PRIME MINISTER ROWLING. A PRIORITY REPLY IS REQUESTED AS I WILL BE LEAVING NEW ZEALAND NOVEMBER 10 FOR CONSULTATIONS IN WASHINGTON AND WILL NOT BE RETURNING TO WELLINGTON UNTIL AFTER THE EA CHIEFS OF MISSION CONFERENCE.
SELDEN

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